

WINNING THE BATTLE

1 Peter 4:17 (NIV) *For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household...*

How to Win the Battle:

1). Environment to Grow (vs. 1-4)

1 Peter 5:1 (NIV) *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed.*

Elders:

- Teach sound doctrine
- Equip believers
- Be examples of faith
- Shepherd the flock
- Refute false teaching
- Pray for the church
- Provide oversight of ministries
- Receive new members
- Resolve conflicts in the body

Our Leadership Structure:

- Led by Staff (daily operations)
- Overseen by Elders (accountability/encouragement)
- Affirmed by congregation (membership)

1 Peter 5:2 (NIV) *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.*

3 Problems the Elders were having that Peter addresses:

- 1). Wrong Motivation
- 2). Wrong Goals
- 3). Wrong Methods

⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

2). Relationships to Develop (vs. 5-9)

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

we are most **vulnerable** when we are:

- Isolated
- Tired
- Discouraged

3). Access to Power (vs. 10-11)

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

My Next Steps: I'm going to:

- Find a church and commit to it
- Cast my anxieties on God
- Develop a humble spirit
- Start developing a healthy relationship
- Plug in to the power of God